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Creating an environment at the national and international levels conducive to generating full and productive employment and decent work for all, and its impact on sustainable development

Statement submitted by Partnership for Indigenous Peoples Environment, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2006/100.

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Statement

My name is Goodluck Diigbo, president, Partnership for Indigenous Peoples Environment, PIPE. It reviews international laws and standards affecting indigenous peoples and advocates to promote cultural, economic, environmental, political and social rights of all peoples.

Two broad goals are identified in this Statement:

1. The short-term goal is participation and skills acquisition for employment;

2. The long-term goal is a sustained conducive environment strategy and sustained effort aimed at poverty alleviation.

PIPE offers to collaborate with UN to accomplish short long-term goals towards fashioning a model for skills acquisition for indigenous peoples. My book: **Path to Self-Reliance** (1989) focuses on skills acquisition as solution for employment creation.

Statement Principles:

(a) The theme: *Generating Full and Productive Employment and Decent Work for Indigenous Peoples Through Skills Acquisition* is related to the entire range of economic, environmental and social rights, with the overall objective of poverty alleviation.

(b) The High Level Substantive Session should take into account that by 2025, 83 percent of the expected global population of 8.5 billion will be living in developing countries, (according to UN Statistics). This means that that to survive the rural dwellers living in their villages must be engaged in full and productive employment and decent work.

(c) The guiding objective should be to create *conducive environment* for peaceful interaction and interface of development activities in the economic and social spheres between peoples, governments and businesses. Thus, *Poverty alleviation* and *conducive environment* should be examined in a holistic and balanced manner within the framework of macro and micro economic planning, development policy and resources control, utilization and management.

(d) Economic policies should include local (village) level, where informal economic employment opportunities exist, taking into account circumstances and situations that deprive indigenous peoples their traditional means of livelihood and employment opportunities.

Against this background, I call for:

(i) The strengthening of International Instruments to promote mandatory tripartite dialogue and cooperation between government, local community and business to avoid conflicts that could hinder the creation of conducive environment.

(ii) The United Nations system should strengthen International Instruments to encourage member states to provide education and training to prepare indigenous peoples for the future through skills acquisition programmes, integrating informal education system. This is particularly necessary because most indigenous peoples are vulnerable inhabitants of frontier regions keenly sought for development purposes and are often in danger of loosing their homelands and faced with possible relocation.

(iii) Given the indigenous peoples' social, cultural and economic conditions, which distinguish them from other sections of national community, the High Level Substantive Session should review and consider adopting, when ready: *The Right to Economic Security* (being developed by the speaker on behalf of PIPE) that seeks to protect the cultural rights, customary law, fishing rights, land rights and right to control their own resources, among others.